

Remarks

The Office action dated December 26, 2007, has been received and carefully considered. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 13, 14, 20, 25, 26, 28, and 35-37 have been amended, and new claims 40-42 have been added. Claims 30, 34, and 38 have been canceled. In view of these amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejections

The Office action has rejected claims 1-29, 31-33, 35-37, and 39 for allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Office action alleges that the specification fails to teach a “manual operation to move the adapter leads relative to the supply conduit to match a polarity.” The Office action contends that the specification provides an enabling disclosure for moving the adapter leads relative to the handpiece, but not relative to the supply conduit, as in the claims. Applicant disagrees.

If the adapter 5 is axially rotated such that the leads are manually moved with respect to the handpiece 2, the leads are also moved with respect to any supply conduit 4 to which the adapter is coupled. The handpiece 2, adapter 5, and supply conduit 4 all share a single longitudinal axis. *See* FIG. 1. Thus, rotating the adapter 5 about its longitudinal axis simultaneously moves the adapter leads with respect to both the handpiece 2 and the supply conduit 4.

Furthermore, FIGS. 3A and 3B, along with the accompanying description in the specification, show movement of the adapter leads relative to the supply conduit to match a polarity. FIG. 3A shows the adapter leads in a first position, and FIG. 3B shows the adapter leads in a second position, whereby the adapter leads have been rotated and the supply conduit has not, thus showing movement of the adapter leads relative to the supply conduit. The specification describes how one moves the leads from the first position shown in FIG. 3A to the second position shown in FIG. 3B: “coupling 3 is disconnected from the adapter 5 and the adapter 5 is taken out of the handle sleeve 10, turned through 180° about its longitudinal axis into a second possible, predetermined position and then once again reinserted into the handle sleeve.” Page 5, lines 16-20 of the specification. This statement makes clear that the adapter is disconnected from both the supply conduit and the handle sleeve before rotation. Thus, the adapter leads are moved relative to the supply conduit, rather than while attached to it.

The Office action also rejected claims 8-12, 20-24, and 28-29, contending that the second disclosed embodiment is not enabled because, allegedly, “Applicant does not reasonably disclose the ‘switch’ necessary for moving the leads within the adapter so as to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the claimed invention.” First, the Office action only alleges that a “switch” is not enabled. Of the rejected claims, only claims 10, 12, 22, and 24 actually claim a device comprising a switch. The other rejected claims (claims 8, 9, 11, 20, 21, 23, 28, and 29) do not recite a “switch,” but rather, recite a “switchable connection” (claims 8, 9, 20, 21, 28, and 29) or “rigid sections and movable sections” (claims 11 and 23). These claims are clearly enabled by FIGS. 4A and 4B, as well as by the accompanying description. The specification teaches electrical leads divided into several sections, where sections 16B, 16C, 17B, and 17C are rigid and sections 16A and 17A are movable. Page 5, lines 28-30 of the specification. The specification continues: “movable lead sections 16A and 17A can be connected to the rigid sections 16B and 17C, respectively (position 1, Figure 4A), or to sections 16C and 17B respectively (position 2, Figure 4B).” Page 5, lines 31-33 of the specification. FIGS. 4A and 4B illustrate this switchable connection by showing changes in the angular position of movable lead sections 16A and 17A relative to a point on the longitudinal axis.

Furthermore, to be enabling, a specification need not disclose what is known in the art. One of ordinary skill in the art would be able to make and use the embodiments claimed in claims 8-12, 20-24, and 28-29. As to claims 10, 12, 22, and 24, switches are well known in the art. For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,204,243 to Ross, cited in the Office action, discloses “a double pole double throw polarity reversing switch 24 [] provided for reversibly connecting the input line terminals 21n and 21h to the output terminals 22n and 22h” which is “diagrammatically illustrated in FIG. 2.” Ross col. 3, lines 42-46. Ross goes on to describe how “first and second movable switch members 26a and 26b [] are movable under the control of a manually operable switch actuator 26.” Ross col. 3, lines 56-59. Thus, the second embodiment of the present disclosure concerning using a switch to produce different lead routings is adequately disclosed to one of ordinary skill in the art because one of ordinary skill in the art would immediately appreciate how a switch could be used with the present adapter to produce the desired effects.

Because all claimed embodiments are enabled and adequately described, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections

Claims 2-6, 14-16, and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. The Office action contends that the claim feature regarding rotating the adapter relative to said contacts contradicts parent claim 1, which recites rotating the adapter with respect to the supply conduit. While Applicant disagrees that the claim language is contradictory, claims 2, 5, 8, 14, and 26 have been amended to remove the allegedly objectionable language, thus rendering these rejections moot for these amended claims and their dependent claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections

Claims 1-6, 13-19, 25-27, 31-33, 35-37, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by European Patent Application Publication No. 1 103232 to Bianchetti et al. This rejection is traversed.

Independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 35-37 all recite an adapter that is “selectively switchable without disassembly by a manual operation to move the adapter leads relative to the supply conduit” (or “supply hose” in claim 37). The Office action does not contend that Bianchetti discloses this feature because Bianchetti does not, in fact, disclose this feature. Bianchetti does not teach adapter leads that are movable relative to a supply conduit. As discussed above, this feature is fully enabled and described in the present specification. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is requested for at least this reason.

Claims 1, 7, 25, 31, 33, 35, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,305,934 to Hatley. As amended, independent claims 1 and 25 recite an adapter having first and second adapter electrical leads “wherein the first adapter electrical lead comprises a first end and the second adapter electrical lead comprises a second end, said first and second ends being axially offset along a longitudinal axis of the adapter body such that the first end is located a first distance from the first edge of the adapter body and the second end is located a second distance from the first edge of the adapter body, where the first distance is not equal to the second distance.” Hatley does not disclose this feature and thus does not anticipate every element of claim 1, 7, 25, 31, or 33. Therefore, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 35 and 37 recite an adapter comprising “first and second axially offset slide contacts.” The Office action does not allege that Hatley teaches this feature. In fact, Hatley does not teach this feature, and thus Hatley cannot anticipate claim 35 or 37. Therefore, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8-12, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,204,243 to Ross. Independent claim 1 recites an adapter having first and second adapter electrical leads “wherein the first adapter electrical lead comprises a first end and the second adapter electrical lead comprises a second end, said first and second ends being axially offset along a longitudinal axis of the adapter body such that the first end is located a first distance from the first edge of the adapter body and the second end is located a second distance from the first edge of the adapter body, where the first distance is not equal to the second distance.” The polarity indicating and reversing unit disclosed in Ross does not anticipate these rejected claims because it does not disclose axially offset leads at different distances from a first edge of the unit body. Thus, Ross does not disclose every element of claim 1 or dependent claims 8-12, and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 35, as amended, recites an adapter comprising “first and second axially offset slide contacts.” The polarity indicating and reversing unit disclosed in Ross does not anticipate claim 35 because it does not disclose axially offset slide contacts. Thus, Ross does not disclose every element of claim 35, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,626,354 to Banner. Independent claim 1 recites an adapter having first and second adapter electrical leads “wherein the first adapter electrical lead comprises a first end and the second adapter electrical lead comprises a second end, said first and second ends being axially offset along a longitudinal axis of the adapter body such that the first end is located a first distance from the first edge of the adapter body and the second end is located a second distance from the first edge of the adapter body, where the first distance is not equal to the second distance.” The polarity-reversing adapter means disclosed in Banner does not anticipate claim 1 or dependent claims 2-6 because it does not disclose axially offset leads at different distances from a first edge of the unit body. Thus, Banner does not disclose every element of these claims, and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 35, as amended, recites an adapter comprising “first and second axially offset slide contacts.” The polarity-reversing adapter means disclosed in Banner does not anticipate claim 35 because it does not disclose axially offset slide contacts. Thus, Banner does not disclose every element of claim 35, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections

Claims 30, 34, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Bianchetti. Claims 30, 34, and 38 were canceled, and thus this rejection is moot.

Claims 13, 17, 20-25, 28-29, and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,638,063 to Otsuka in view of Ross. The Office action alleges that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the conventional dental light curing device of Otsuka with the polarity indicating and reversing unit of Ross. This combination of references, however, does not teach or suggest all of the features of these claims, and thus cannot render these claims obvious. Neither Otsuka nor Ross disclose or suggest the “axially offset” adapter electrical leads of claims 13, 17, 20-25, 28-29, and 36-37 or the “axially offset slide contacts” of claims 35-37. Thus, the combination of these references cannot render obvious the claimed embodiments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 13-19, 25-27, and 31-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Otsuka in view of Banner. The Office action alleges that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the polarity-reversing adapter means of Banner with the dental light curing device of Otsuka. This combination of references, however, does not teach or suggest all of the features of these claims, and thus cannot render these claims obvious. Neither Otsuka nor Banner disclose or suggest the “axially offset” adapter electrical leads of claims 13-19, 25-27, 31-33, and 36-37 or the “axially offset slide contacts” of claims 35-37. Thus, the combination of these references cannot render obvious the claimed embodiments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are directed to allowable subject matter and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place this application in better condition

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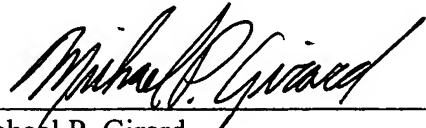
Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are directed to allowable subject matter and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place this application in better condition

for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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